

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority based on an application filed in Japan on March 16, 2004. It is noted, however, that applicant has not filed a certified copy of the Japanese 2004-074874 application as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b).

Response to Amendment

Applicant's Amendment filed March 9, 2010 has been fully considered and entered.

Applicant's arguments, see pages 11-13, filed March 9, 2010, with respect to claims 1-9 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Accordingly, the prior art rejections set forth in the previous Office action have been withdrawn in view of Applicant's remarks and the corresponding amendments to independent claims 1 and 3.

Claims 2, 5, 6 and 8 depend from claim 1, and claims 4, 7 and 9 depend from claim 3.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-9 are allowed.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning the merits of this communication should be directed to Examiner Michelle R. Connelly-Cushwa at telephone number (571) 272-2345. The examiner can normally be reached 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM, Monday-Thursday.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Uyen-Chau Le can be reached on (571) 272-2397. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general or clerical nature should be directed to the Technology Center 2800 receptionist at telephone number (571) 272-1562.

/Michelle R. Connelly-Cushwa/
Primary Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2874